



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

June 29, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

AB 1368 (Umberg), as amended on June 20, 2005, would exempt public safety employees from certain elements of the workers' compensation reform enacted last year. Last year's reforms, which were part of County-supported SB 899 (Poochigian), established an apportionment of employer liability for job-related injuries among common individual workers. Specifically, under the new law, a physician who prepares a report addressing the issue of an employee's permanent disability due to a claimed industrial injury is required to address the issue of causation. The employer's liability is limited to the percentage of permanent disability directly caused by the injury. SB 899 also completely repealed the presumption of the correctness of a treating physician's diagnosis, and now allows employers to dispute diagnoses regardless of date of injury.

AB 1368 is similar to AB 1331 (Umberg) which the County opposed earlier this year. AB 1331 is currently being held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. CAO Risk Management notes that like AB 1331, AB 1368 would greatly increase the County's workers' compensation exposure and recommends that the bill be opposed. **Therefore, our Sacramento advocates will oppose AB 1368.** This position is consistent with Board policy to oppose proposals that expand presumptions and/or weaken requirements that employees demonstrate on-the-job exposure in order to qualify for workers' compensation.

AB 1368 is pending consideration by the Senate Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, and has not been scheduled for hearing. There is no recorded support or opposition.

Status of County Interest Legislation

County-supported AB 379 (Evans), which would allow satisfactory progress in a secondary school to count toward the 20 hours of core welfare-to-work activities and specify that participation in vocational education, or other activities would not preclude recipients from being able to count the following activities toward the 20-hour core requirement: 1) mental health, substance abuse or domestic violence services; 2) adult education; 3) job skills training; and 4) education directly related to employment, passed the Senate Committee on Human Services on June 28, 2005 by a vote of 6 to 1. This measure now proceeds to the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

County-supported and amended AB 696 (Chu), which would: 1) eliminate the Statewide Fingerprint Imaging System (SFIS) for Food Stamp only cases; 2) eliminate the current SFIS requirement to take photographs of CalWORKs and Food Stamp applicants as a condition of receiving benefits; 3) replace quarterly reporting in CalWORKs and Food Stamps with semi-annual reporting; 4) provide categorical eligibility to Food Stamp benefits for certain Medi-Cal participants and hold counties harmless from Food Stamp error rate penalties resulting from implementation of categorical eligibility; 5) simplify Food Stamp eligibility requirements; and 6) require the State to seek a Federal waiver to exempt certain Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents from the 3-month limit to Food Stamp benefits, at the option of the County, passed the Senate Committee on Human Services on June 28, 2005 by a vote of 6 to 1. This measure now proceeds to the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

County-supported AB 779 (De La Torre), which would require the California Department of Health Services to work with counties, providers and advocates to implement an automated procedure to give Medi-Cal providers access to the due dates of the annual Medi-Cal re-determination and semi-annual status report and give Medi-Cal providers the option of notifying beneficiaries of approaching due dates for these required reports, was placed on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File on June 27, 2005.

County-supported AB 889 (Ruskin), which would continue the authority of counties to collect registration fees for commercial weighing and measuring devices through January 1, 2011, revise various fee schedules, and standardize the way county point-of-sale (scanner) inspection programs operate, passed the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development, with minor technical amendments, on June 27, 2005. The bill now proceeds to the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

County-neutral SB 112 (Ortiz), which would revise the State's Refugee Employment Social Services allocation formula to give greater weight to those counties with more aided refugees in the U.S. less than 2 years, passed the Assembly Committee on Human Services on June 28, 2005 by unanimous vote. The measure now proceeds to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

County-opposed SB 539 (Ashburn), which would delay the start of payment for child-care services to license-exempt providers until the provider is registered through the California Department of Social Services' (CDSS) Trustline program, failed passage in the Assembly Committee on Human Services on June 28, 2005 by a vote of 2 to 4. This measure was granted reconsideration. A reconsideration hearing has not been scheduled.

County-supported SB 1018 (Simitian), which would add officers and employees of financial institutions, including banks, credit unions, and savings and loans, to those designated as mandated reporters of financial abuse perpetrated against elder and dependent adults, passed the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care on June 28, 2005 by a vote of 3 to 1. The bill now proceeds to the Assembly Committee on Judiciary.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:JF:VE:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Local 660
 All Department Heads
 Legislative Strategist
 Coalition of County Unions
 California Contract Cities Association
 Independent Cities Association
 League of California Cities
 City Managers Associations
 Buddy Program Participants